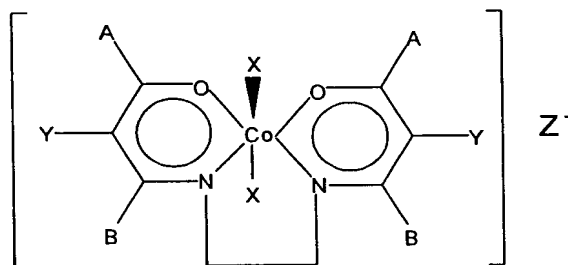


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The likelihood of infection by a broad spectrum of viruses, including Adenovirus, Human Immunodeficiency Virus and/or Human Papillomavirus infection can be reduced by the prophylactic topical application, prior to the exposure to or
 5 infection by the virus of metallo-organic cobalt compounds according to the following formula to the site of infection:



I.

- wherein each A may be the same or different and is an alkyl group, a phenyl group or a substituted derivative of a phenyl group;
- 10 wherein each Y may be the same or different and is hydrogen, an unbranched alkyl group, a halide or a group having the structure $\text{R}-\text{C}(=\text{O})-$ wherein R is hydrogen, an alkoxide group, and alkyl group, or OH;
- wherein each B may be the same or different and each is hydrogen or an alkyl group;
- wherein each X may be the same or different and each is a water soluble group
- 15 having weak to intermediate ligand field strength; and
- Z⁻ is a soluble, pharmaceutically acceptable negative ion.
- Metallo-organic cobalt compounds may also be used to disinfect liquids which contain adenovirus, Human Immunodeficiency Virus and/or Human Papillomavirus.